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## **Leadership Pensacola to unveil 2016 class project**

*A Better Way to Give launches community education and funding platform for the homeless in downtown Pensacola*

PENSACOLA, Fla. – April 27, 2016 – The Greater Pensacola Chamber Foundation’s Leadership Pensacola (LeaP) Class of 2016 will unveil this year’s class project, *A Better Way to Give*, aimed at improving the lives of the homeless in our area. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 at Plaza de Luna and will feature information about the class project, a preview of the painted meters to be installed, guest speakers from the Chamber and local dignitaries.

Inspired by similar programs around the country, *A Better Way to Give* recycles obsolete parking meters, creatively painted by various local artists, to provide an alternative to giving to panhandlers. The meters are designed to raise awareness about the homeless population in the city and create a coordinated funding mechanism for agencies addressing these challenges.

Donations to help the homeless can be made by depositing spare change into the meters downtown or giving through the online portal at [BetterWayPensacola.org](http://BetterWayPensacola.org). The Downtown Improvement Board generously donated the meters to the project, and the EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless will collect and manage money raised moving forward.

The LeaP class has worked with local churches, nonprofit organizations and government entities to create a network of help for the homeless and education tools for the community. The first meter will be unveiled during the ceremony, followed by the installation of 38 more throughout the month of May along Palafox Place and Main Street, near Community Maritime Park and around various parks and squares in the area.

For more information about the class project of 2016, please contact Josh Newby, external communications chair, at [josh@ballingerpublishing.com](mailto:josh@ballingerpublishing.com), or Amanda Hindsman, class project chair, at [amanda.hindsman@studergroup.com](mailto:amanda.hindsman@studergroup.com).

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### **About Leadership Pensacola**

Leadership Pensacola, a 501(c)(3), was founded in the fall of 1982 with the first graduating class in 1983. The Greater Pensacola Chamber established the program with a goal of ensuring the community's pool of talented leaders would be continually renewed. For more information, call the Greater Pensacola Chamber at (850) 438-4081. To date, more than 1,200 people have completed the Leadership Pensacola program and have acquired the skills, passion and connections to work effectively as community trustees. For additional information about Leadership Pensacola, please visit [pensacolachamber.com/LeaP](http://pensacolachamber.com/LeaP).

**About the Pensacola Chamber Foundation**

The Pensacola Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to drive economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life in Greater Pensacola by taking a long-term, strategic approach to regional growth and community building. Its goal is to build a healthier, better-educated workforce; to continue to advance the region's competitive economic positioning; and to improve community infrastructure by focusing on strengthening special economic interests within the region, on small business development, on minority initiatives, and on military support services. For additional information, please visit [PensacolaChamber.com](http://PensacolaChamber.com).